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4 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Scientific Intelligence Committee  
SUBJECT : SIC Contributions to National Estimates  
REFERENCE : Your Memorandum of 19 February

1. Since receiving your memo, we have discussed ways of facilitating SIC contributions to National Estimates, and, in particular, what could be done to assign SIC responsibility more explicitly and more early in the game. You are right in suggesting that there are limits on how much can be done to improve matters in this area -- limits built into the nature of the problems involved, the time schedule forced upon us, and the manpower available.

2. I suspect, however, that matters can be improved to some degree by certain modifications in past procedures. On our side, the following steps have been or are being taken:

a. You have received copies of a 13 February memorandum from Mr. Stoertz, with an accompanying chart, setting forth approximate work periods on all Soviet military estimates for the current year. This is, of course, a tentative projection, but it comes about as near as one now can to providing the general bases for advance planning on these projects. (The quarterly projection of the Estimates Schedule for the

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succeeding six months, of course, becomes the official plan upon receiving USIB approval.) This tentative projection is not, of course, a substitute for terms of reference, but it should not be hard for someone from your shop and our staff men involved to define the questions important to the SIC, on the basis of this plan, well in advance of the formal terms of reference stage.

b. Your Committee's interests, I know, are not confined to Soviet matters. I have undertaken to alert Board members and Staff personnel engaged on other areas and problems to keep in mind your needs, and particularly to alert you at the earliest opportunity when an estimate of interest to the SIC is laid on.

c. As part of the same effort to improve advance planning which led to the memo above, we are making a genuine attempt to prepare and coordinate terms of reference farther in advance of proposed completion date than has been the case in the past. No particular new machinery has been, or should be, instituted to this end, but all hands are trying.

3. As regards the SIC side of these arrangements, I would think one step is to insure that your representative is with us at the terms of reference meeting. We will keep it in mind to issue the appropriate invitation. Perhaps you could designate a man to receive our daily and weekly schedule and to make it his business to contact the appropriate Board or Staff member, as a terms of reference meeting is scheduled, to arrange for your representative's presence and for raising the question of assigning specific SIC responsibilities.

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates